

Divulging of Secrets In Arms Negotiation Stirs Dispute in U.S.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—A dispute has arisen over the disclosure of classified information dealing with negotiations for a new treaty limiting Soviet and American strategic weapons.

After several weeks of leaks in the press on details of the projected agreement—starting with The New York Times, Paul H. Nitze, a former negotiator on strategic-arms curbs, made public yesterday the fullest version to date of the status of the negotiations.

Mr. Nitze, representing a group called the Committee on the Present Danger, complained that the United States was locking itself into a "position of inherent inferiority" to the Russians. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance denied this charge today.

Mr. Nitze's committee was formed last year to argue for a stronger defense against a Soviet threat it perceived.

He indicated today that his information had been extrapolated from articles in the press. The Administration has been briefing members of Congress on details of the negotiations. It has discussed them with reporters in more general terms.

Today, Carl Marcy, co-director of a group called the American Committee on East-West Accord, accused Mr. Nitze of "unwise and unauthorized release of classified information and of seeking to substitute his judgment and that of the narrow group for which he speaks for the judgment of the Secretary of State, the Defense Secretary, the national security affairs adviser, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the President—all of whom are involved in the current SALT negotiations."

Mr. Marcy, who formerly was staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, complained that Mr. Nitze was jeopardizing the sensitive negotiations. He said the time for public discussion was after an agreement had been reached and had been sent to the Senate for approval.

"There seems to be a few old cold warriors who neither die nor fade away," Mr. Marcy said, "but would brandish their sabers forever rather than help pave the way for a just and lasting peace, a reduction in international tensions and a lessening of the possibility of nuclear war."